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SUBJECT: BELGIUM EXTENDS ITS UNIFIL MISSION UNTIL THE END OF 2008

Belgium has decided to continue its UNIFIL mission until the end of the year. As a partial cost saving for the financially-strapped Belgian Ministry of Defense, the number of troops deployed will be reduced from 370 to 335. In addition, from September until the end of the year, a Belgian frigate will participate in UNIFIL's sea operations. Belgium's mission expired June 15.

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